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PUBLIC NOTICE (10-20)

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District has received an application from Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood), on behalf of Brightline Trains Florida, LLC (Brightline) requesting approval of the location and plans for the construction of a bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Loxahatchee River, mile 1.2, upstream of Jupiter Inlet at the Atlantic Ocean, Jupiter, Palm Beach County, Florida, 26°56'51.6"N 80°05'25.2 W.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The project proposes replacing the exiting Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway Bridge crossing the Loxahatchee River. The proposed replacement bridge will consist of a bascule span at the same location as the existing bascule span. The existing bascule and rest piers will be reused for the new bascule span. The remaining six (6) piers, which support the fixed portion of the bridge, will be replaced with eight (8) new support piers. The project is also proposing a small boat span, which will provide increased navigational clearance, through a fixed portion at the southern end of the bridge. The proposed bridge will be located within the same footprint as the existing bridge. The overall length will be 583.78 feet long and will vary in width from 24 to 43 feet.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

Existing Clearances

Horizontal (Bascule Span)
39.72 feet between face of fenders normal to channel axis

Horizontal (new small boat span)
There is no small boat span currently provided on the existing bridge

Vertical (Bascule Span)
6.65 feet above Mean High Water (draw closed)
8.6 feet above Mean Low Water
Unlimited vertical (with draw opened)

Vertical (small boat span)
There is no small boat span currently provided on the existing bridge

Proposed Clearance

Horizontal (Bascule Span)
39.72 feet between face of fenders normal to the channel axis

Horizontal (new small boat span) 52 feet normal to channel axis

Vertical (Bascule Span)
6.65 feet above Mean High Water (closed)
8.6 feet above Mean Low Water
Unlimited vertical (with draw opened)

Vertical (new small boat span) 8.00 feet above Mean High Water 9.96 feet above Mean Low Water

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Coast Guard, as the lead federal agency, has made a tentative determination that the proposed project is a categorical exclusion (CE) for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because it satisfies criteria for such actions listed in the Coast Guard's NEPA Implementing Instructions. The documents are available for review at the above address, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The bridge is located in the floodplain. The 100-year flood elevation is 8.0 ft. and the bridge low member elevation is approximately 6.52 ft. on the bascule span and 7.87 at the small boat span; elevations are referenced to NAVD 88 datum.

A tentative determination identified species within the snapper-grouper complex, spiny lobster, and pink shrimp as species that may utilize the habitat available in Loxahatchee River. The Loxahatchee River contains Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) for Snapper-Grouper complex. Additionally, it is tentatively determined that the proposed project is "not likely to adversely affect" (NLAA) the wood stork, the manatee, sea turtles, and Johnson seagrass.

The South Water Management District issued an ERP on 30 January 2020. In accordance with Florida Administrative Code, issuance of an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) constitutes certification of compliance with applicable water quality standards.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS TO NAVIGATION DURING CONSTRUCTION:

Anticipated impacts to navigation during construction will only occur when the spans are being placed onto the pilings. Pilings will be driven and placed by crane. Details of any navigational impacts will be disseminated to mariners via the Coast Guard's Local Notice to Mariners (LNM). To subscribe to the Coast Guard LNM and other free Coast Guard navigation notification services, please visit http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/ under "Subscribe / Report (free)" select the notifications you wish to receive; note this project is located in the Seventh Coast Guard District area.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed vertical and horizontal navigational clearances and other navigational safety issues including, but not limited to, the extent of nighttime navigation, need for bridge fendering, and impacts due to construction activities.

Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible impact on minority and/or low income population, if any, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed work. Comments will be received for the record at the office of: Commander (dpb), Seventh Coast Guard District, 909 SE 1st Ave., Ste 432, Miami, Florida 33131-3028, for a 30-day period from the date of this public notice. Our project manager for this application is Ms. Lisia Kowalczyk. She can be contacted by telephone at (305) 415-6932, by mail at the above address, or e-mail at lisia.j.kowalczyk@uscg.mil. Comments received will be made part of the case record. Map of location and plans attached.





